

Fish Assessment Methods Working Meeting Agenda

September 13, 1996

1st hour: Status Report and Discussion of Comments and Work Products

Explain meeting format -

- This meeting is being held as part of an ongoing process and as a follow up to the meetings on August 22 and 27, 1996. In response to concerns expressed by agencies and stakeholders about the number and length of meetings held by CALFED, we have reduced the length of this meeting and expect this meeting to be more focussed and productive in a shorter period of time.
- This meeting is being held in response to agency and stakeholder interest in being involved in the development of the assessment process for fish resources.
- Decisions made by the group may be revisited and changed in the future if circumstances warrant, but decisions must be made for the Phase II process to move forward.

Status Report -

Since the last fish assessment methods working meeting, CALFED has:

- Summarized the outcome of the August 22 and 27 meetings.
- Contacted and requested formal participation of IEP as a priority activity.
- Contacted and invited stakeholder fishery experts to join the fish assessment team.
- Prepared a final draft fish species list and supporting matrix with criteria, including species groupings where appropriate.
- Identified key assessment variables for each species.
- Reviewed and incorporated comments on key assessment variables.
- Formally completed the Phase I process.

Summary of Comments and Work Products -

- Comments
- Species list, species groupings, matrix and criteria
- Key assessment variable lists

2nd hour: Key Assessment Variables

Goal for Today's Meeting -

1. Discuss, modify and if possible, reach agreement on the proposed key assessment variable list for each species.

3rd hour: Begin Discussion of Assessment Methods for Key Assessment Variables

Considerations for the CALFED process -

1. This is a programmatic document. Assessment methods must only be able to distinguish relative benefits and impacts of the alternatives at the programmatic level. Further analysis will be conducted in Phase III as part of the site specific environmental analysis.
2. Impact analysis will be conducted between October and March. Assessment methods for use during Phase II must be available and usable during that time.
3. A draft preferred alternative will be identified in April prior to the completion of the preliminary Administrative Draft in May.

Discussion of Assessment Methods -

- We want fair application of assessment methods.
- We will not be making decisions about assessment methods today, but the questions which must be answered are:
 1. Which methods will work the best for each assessment variable for each species?
 2. Which methods will be used?
 3. How will the results of the application of these methods be used to measure relative differences between the alternatives at the programmatic level.

Summarize outcomes of today's meeting.

Plan next meeting - October 17, 1996.